

as the sixteenth century it was still customary for the middle and lower classes to enter into it with that hearty earnestness which characterizes all the popular English sports.

But it was not to be expected that the gloomy Puritans of a later day would regard such pastimes as other than unseemly. Hence the accounts of "Maying" which they handed down to us, and which we must take with a due allowance for the unfriendly spirit of the chroniclers, represent the ceremony as being conducted in a very unbecoming manner.

"Remember us poor Mayers all. And thus we do begin To lead our lives in righteousness, Or else we die in sin."

In districts where this ballad is now sung on the first of May by the children, a doll dressed in white, and styled the "Lady of the May," takes a prominent part in the ceremonies, and is supposed to be a relic of those days when it was employed on such occasions as a representative of the Virgin Mary.

Another essential feature of the early May-day festivities of England was

The May-Pole.

with which every town and village of any pretensions was invariably and permanently furnished. Its customary height was equal to that of the mast of a vessel of a hundred tons. Upon this the merry people on May morning were accustomed to hang garlands of flowers, and then to dance around it almost the entire day.

The parish of St. Andrew Undershaft, in London, received its name from the celebrated May-pole which, in early times, overshadowed its church spire. Story relates that in his time this pole was erected "every year on May-day in the morning, in the midst of the street before the south door of the church, which shaft, when it was set on end, and fixed in the ground, was higher than the church steeple."

In one of the earliest representations of a May-pole, dating back to the time of Henry VIII, it is pictured as being planted in a grass-covered mound of earth, with the red-cross banner of St. George affixed, together with a white pinion or streamer forked at the end, and bearing for a motto the words—"A Merry May."

With the restoration of the Stuarts the dominion of the May-pole was resumed for a brief period. The most celebrated of all these in London was then erected in the Strand, where it remained standing long after all the others had disappeared. This happened in the year 1661, when the tallest of all the old London May-poles, a stately cedar, 134 feet in height, was placed in the most conspicuous position in the Strand.

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So great have been the changes in the customs and manners of the English people during the past century and a half, that the May-pole has at last passed out of existence without the aid of legislation. In some remote country parishes, one is occasionally still seen standing; but even then it is perverted to the support of a weather-cock, or to some other equally ignoble use.

The Queen of the May was another element in the early English festivities of this season of the year. This has likewise become quite obsolete in England, although it still survives in France, and in a

modified form, in some sections of this country. In the olden time the part taken by this flower-crowned maid was such as to lead to the belief that the custom was a relic of the days of heathenism, the May-Queen being the successor of the goddess Flora; and the defence paid to the former an imitation of the pious devotion which was extended to the latter.

The Robin-Hood games of the First of May were not restricted to England, but were equally popular in Scotland, more especially in the neighborhood of Edinburgh. Here they were intermingled with the performances of the "Queen of May" and the "Abbot of Unreason," or "Lord of Misrule."

The May-Day Festivities of France, in many particulars, resemble those already described as pertaining to different sections of Great Britain. This is particularly the case with the enthronement of the May-Queen, a ceremony which has not yet become obsolete in the former country.

The May-Day Festivities of London, in addition to those already enumerated, are somewhat peculiar. A procession by the chimney-sweeps is still a regular event of the occasion.

Until within the last fifty years, it was the custom of the milkmaids also to engage in a similar demonstration. During the morning of the first of May, the dairy-women, in light, fantastic dress, and with their heads encased in veils, would lead through the streets of London a milk cow, all garlanded with flowers, around which they danced to the music of the violin or clarinet.

The May-Day Festivities of Scotland are likewise peculiar, as far as they are still in vogue. They are generally confined to the simple ceremony, on the part of the young girls, of proceeding out of doors at an early hour in the day, for the purpose of washing their faces with dew.

The Robin Hood Games were a distinct set of sports which were intermingled with the regular May-day festivals of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, and were regarded with great favor in those times. As their name indicates, they were intended as a representation of the marvellous adventures of the legendary Robin Hood.

Then came six foresters, with hoods, tunics, and hose of green, each carrying a bugle, attached to a silken baldric, which he sounded as he entered the open square. Next in order followed the personation of Robin Hood himself. His tunic was of dazzling green, and fringed with gold; his hose and hood presented an intermixture of white and blue; on his head he bore a large wreath of rosebuds, in his hand a bow already bent, in his girdle an assortment of arrows, at his side a bugle-horn, a dagger, and a sword, all richly embossed with gold.

Two maidens, in orange-colored kirtles, entered just after this discourse, strewing flowers as they went, and followed by "Maid Marian," arrayed in a watch-colored tunic which reached to the ground. Two variegated bridesmaids supported the heroine, and after them came four more girls, attired in green, and ornamented with garlands of violets and cowslips. Then followed "Friar Tuck," with a cawtar-staff on shoulder; and "Truck, the Miller's son," with a long pole, having an inflated bladder attached to the end.

Just as the May-pole passed the barrier the foresters gave a trumpet upon their horns, and the attendant crowd of spectators set up a shout, which they zealously maintained until the cause of all this uproar had reached the precise spot on which it was to be permanently stationed. While the preparations for raising the pole were being made, the villagers were permitted to approach for the purpose of decorating it as they fancy prompted, and this being completed, the enclosure was cleared, and the May-pole elevated, amid the hearty shoutings of the spectators. Then the wooden and the milkmaids danced about the pole, to the accompaniment of the bagpipes and tabor; after which the "Hobby-horse" and the "Dragon" performed their appropriate antics.

tained a surfeit of such ridiculous performances ("Robin Hood" and his archers engaged in a friendly rivalry with bow and arrow, the victor being crowned, as his reward, with a wreath of laurel and various-colored ribbons, while to the one who made the next best shot was given a garland of ivy.

Then the fantastic procession left the enclosure, and the villagers entered after them to amuse themselves with dancing around the May-pole, according to the ordinary customs of the day.

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LETTERS LEFT BY A SUICIDE.

An old man who committed suicide near Rock Island, Illinois, a few days since, left the following letter:—

MINERSVILLE, April 12.—This is to certify that I, John Patterson, do solemnly declare that I am going to leave this cruel, wicked country, and that both I and my old dog are going together—God and men all forgive me—and with me are both gone. I want my old dog to be buried with me and my old dog together in one hole, on the top of the bluff, between them two trees, formerly owned by J. M. Patterson, and all to forgive me. This is my last request. Put a board over me and my old dog with this inscription:—

Peer old Jack, here he lies; Nobody lugs, nor n body cries; Where he's gone, and how he's gone, Nobody knows, nor nobody cares.

Please to comply with my request. The old woman and her cruel family is the cause of all. I ask pardon of every one, and I forgive all.

Minersville, Henry County.

Claims of the Hudson's Bay Company.

A Washington despatch says:—"The Commission organized under the treaty of 1863, for the final settlement of the Hudson Bay and Rupert's Sound Agricultural Company, claims against the United States, will soon have all the evidence before the Commissioners. John Rose is the Commissioner on the part of the United States, and Judge C. C. Day, of Montreal, and Judge Edward Lander, a brother of the late General Lander, are the counsel for Great Britain, and the evidence will include two thousand printed pages, and is somewhat conflicting, which will make the task of the Commissioners a difficult one, and the final awards may have to be made by Judge Curtis as umpire."

The Freedmen's National Monument to Abraham Lincoln.

In 1865 a poor colored woman proposed that the people should erect a monument to Abraham Lincoln, and as her own contribution offered \$3. In a short time about \$5,000 were subscribed, and a committee appointed to take charge of the fund. In the meantime Harriet G. Hosmer, hearing of the plan, sent from Italy a plaster cast of a temple in which a statue of the dead President rests upon a sarcophagus; upon four columns are four statues, representing various conditions of the negro—in chains, with the slave mart, and soldier. Four mourning Victories, with trumpets reversed, surround the temple, and upon the cornice are inscribed the words "Emancipation Proclamation." And upon this, sincerely believed to be an act of justice, I invoke the considerate judgment of the people, and the anxious favor of Almighty God. Frederick Douglass is President of the Freedmen's Monument Association, which contemplates the erection of this monument. After this design, in the Capitol grounds at Washington, to be sixty feet high, with the bas-relief and figures in bronze. The estimated cost is \$200,000. Colored people especially are invited to contribute to the fund, which will no doubt be well sustained by all who love the memory of Abraham Lincoln. William Wells Brown is the general agent.

FURNISHING GOODS, SHIRTS, & CO.

J. W. SCOTT & CO., SHIRT MANUFACTURERS, AND DEALERS IN MEN'S FURNISHING GOODS. No. 814 CHESTNUT STREET, FOUR DOORS BELOW THE "CONTINENTAL."

PATENT SHOULDER-SEAM SHIRT MANUFACTORY.

AND GENTLEMEN'S FURNISHING STORES. PERFECT FITTING SHIRTS AND DRAWERS made from measurement at the premises, and this article of GENTLEMEN'S DRESS GOODS in full variety. WINCHESTER & CO., No. 706 CHESTNUT STREET, 1111

FITLER, WEAVER & CO.

MANUFACTURERS OF Manila and Tanned Cordage, Cords Twines, Etc. No. North Water Street, and No. 25 NORTH DELAWARE AVENUE, PHILADELPHIA. EDWIN H. FITLER, MICHAEL WEAVER, JOHN H. FITLER, CONRAD F. CLOSTER, 114

SPECIAL NOTICES.

HON. SCHUYLER COLPAK'S LEGISLATIVE "ACROSS THE CONTENT." In aid of the Monument Fund, will be delivered on TUESDAY EVENING, MAY 7, at NATIONAL HALL, Governor Geary will preside. Tickets Five Cents, for sale at the Hall and the usual places. Tickets, which were sold for March 28th, will be received.

OFFICE OF THE PHILADELPHIA AND FRANKFORD PASSENGER RAILWAY COMPANY, No. 488 FRANKFORD ROAD, PHILADELPHIA, APRIL 29, 1867. All persons who are subscribers to or holders of the capital stock of this Company, and who have not yet paid the sixth installment of Five Dollars per share thereon, are hereby notified that the said sixth installment has been called in, and that they are required to pay the same at the above office on the 10th day of May next, 1867.

OFFICE OF THE LEHIGH COAL AND NAVIGATION COMPANY. PHILADELPHIA, APRIL 29, 1867. The stated Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of this Company will be held at the BOARD OF TRADE ROOMS, north side of CHESTNUT STREET, above FIFTH, on TUESDAY MORNING, the 7th day of May next, at 10 o'clock, after which an adjourned meeting will be held at the same place for Officers of the Company for the ensuing year. The Election to close at 12 o'clock of the same day.

OFFICE CATAWISSA RAILROAD COMPANY, No. 481 WALNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA, April 9, 1867. The Board of Directors of this Company, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of this Company, do hereby declare a semi-annual dividend of FOUR PER CENT, on the capital stock of the Company, clear of national tax, to be paid on the 15th day of May next, at 10 o'clock, and after the fourteenth day of May prox.

OFFICE OF THE TIoga IMPROVEMENT COMPANY, No. 16 PHILADELPHIA EXCHANGE, April 29, 1867. The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the TIoga IMPROVEMENT COMPANY for election of President and Directors, and Treasurer, will be held on TUESDAY, the 7th day of May, 1867, at 12 M. at 11 1/2 in 10 1/2.

NATIONAL BANK OF THE REPUBLIC. PHILADELPHIA, March 12, 1867. In accordance with the provisions of the National Currency Act, and the Articles of Association of this Bank, the Board of Directors do hereby declare a dividend of Five Percent on the Capital Stock of this Bank to be paid on the 15th day of May next, at 10 o'clock, after which an adjourned meeting will be held at the same place for Officers of the Company for the ensuing year. The Election to close at 12 o'clock of the same day.

NEW LONDON COPPER MINING COMPANY. The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders for election of Directors, will be held on THURSDAY, May 2, at No. 129 S. FRONT STREET, P. M. SIMON POEY, Secretary.

A PERMANENT TONIC.—EVERY one at times feels the necessity of something to tone up the system, depressed by mental or bodily exhaustion. At such times let every one, instead of taking alcoholic or medicinal stimulants, reinvigorate his debilitated system by the natural tonic elements of the

PERUVIAN SYRUP, or Protected Solution of the Protoxide of Iron, which vitalizes and enriches the blood by supplying it with its Element, Iron.

Being free from Alcohol in any form, its energizing effects are not followed by corresponding reactions, but are permanent, invigorating strength, vigor, and new life into all parts of the system, and building up an iron constitution.

Wm. C. STEWART, Esq., of Foughkeeps, N. Y., says:—"Since taking the Peruvian Syrup I feel better, my strength is improved, my bowels are regular, my appetite increased."

There is an old physician in this city (older than I am) who has been in the drug business for forty years, who has tried the Syrup for three months, and gives it as his decided opinion that it is the best Alternative Tonic Medicine he ever knew."

For Dyspepsia, Debility, and Female Weakness, the Peruvian Syrup is a specific. A 32-page pamphlet sent free. The genuine has "Peruvian Syrup" blown in the glass. J. F. DIXON, F. D. DIXON, Philadelphia, No. 36 DEY STREET, New York.

GRACE'S CELEBRATED SALVE. We are constantly hearing favorable reports from those who have tried this remedy. Any Anthony, wife of Mark Anthony, of this city, and living at No. 6 Locust Street, afflicted with a felon on the finger, was recently cured by the use of the Salve. Almost instantly she experienced relief from the pain, which had been almost insupportable. Every other remedy had proved unavailing. Those who have tried it once are satisfied of its merits, and nothing will induce them to be without a supply.

CAMBRIA IRON COMPANY.—AT A Meeting of the Directors of the Cambria Iron Company, held on April 19, 1867, a DIVIDEND OF SIX PER CENT, free of State tax, on the Capital Stock thereof, was declared, payable at the Office of the Company, No. 46 CHESTNUT STREET, on and after the 1st of May proximo, to Stockholders of record at the close of this day, or their legal representatives.

BEAUTIFUL HAIR.—CHEVALIER'S LIFE FOR THE HAIR positively restores grey hair to its original color and youthful beauty; it repairs life and strength to the weakest hair; stops its falling out; once keeps the head clean; is unparalleled as a hair-dressing. Sold by all druggists and fashionable hair-dressers, and at my office, No. 112 BROADWAY, N. Y.

DRY GOODS. E. M. NEEDLES & CO., NEW STORE, No. 916 CHESTNUT STREET, Philadelphia, Pa.

NOVELTIES IN BLACK SILKS, NOVELTIES IN CLOAKINGS, NOVELTIES IN DRESS GOODS, NOVELTIES IN WHITE GOODS.

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DRY GOODS.

MARKET & COOPER & CONARD, NINTH.

CLOAK AND SHAWL ROOM. Elegant Silk and Cloth.

SACQUES, CIRCLES, ETC., Plain and Trimmed, READY-MADE OR MADE TO ORDER.

BOYS' CLOTHING ROOM. BOYS' SPRING SUITS, STYLISH GARIBOLDI, CASSIMERE SUITS, LINEN SUITS.

Good stock of good-fitting well-made GARMENTS for good class custom. CLOTHING MADE TO ORDER. Fine assortment of CLOTHS and CASSIMERE, by the yard or piece.

229 FARRIS & WARNER, 229 NORTH NINTH STREET. ABOVE RACE, BARGAINS! BARGAINS!

All-wool Tweeds, Boys' wear, 75 cents. Merinos, for Boys' Wear and Ladies' Sacques, 65 cents. Double-width Cloth, all-wool, \$2. Spring Shawls, from auction, \$4. Double-width All-wool Delaines, 68, worth 75 cents. Spring Salmosins, \$1.25. Table Linens, Napkins, Towels, etc. Apron Bird-eye, Nursery Diaper, etc.

DOMESTICS: Bleached Muslins, best makes, lowest prices. Wilmington, Washita, Bay Mills, etc. etc. Best Unbleached Muslin, yard wide, and 20 cuts. Yard-wide Domet Flannel, 57 1/2 cents. Superior All-wool Flannel, 59 cents. Bullard's Flannels. Calicoes, warranted fast colors, 12 1/2, 15, 18, and 20c. Gingham, 22 and 25 cents. Yard-wide Spring Calicoes, 25 cents. Bargains in Huckaback Linen Towels, 25 cents.

WHITE GOODS: Soft finish Jaconets, 25, 27, and 30 cents. Victoria Lawns, 31, 37 1/2, 40, 50, and 60 cents. Nainsooks, Unbleached Cambrics, Swiss, etc. Bleached Muslin, fine white Brillants, etc. Plain Nainsooks, 41 to 52. India Hill, White Floures, from auction, 50 cents. Fine Corded Piques, 62 1/2 and 70 cents. Ladies' and Gents' Linen Cambric Handkerchiefs, from auction. Hosiery and Gloves, at reduced prices. Linen Shirt Fronts, 27 1/2, 29, 36, 62 1/2, and 70c. Three-ply Linen Cloth, 11 cents. Marcelline Quilts from auction, cheap, etc.

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